III. REMARKS

In Kasper a flag is set in a feature data base when a voice message addressed to a user is stored in a voice mail system. Responsive to the set flag, an audible notification of existing voice message is issued to the user when the user originates a call or answers an incoming call. Said flag is cleared when the voice message is retrieved or when the user originates a call. (ABSTRACT; col 6, lines 10-23)

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has confused the flag used in Kasper with the notification message of the present invention since the Examiner says that Kasper does not teach "transmitting to the terminal over said radio interface a notification message as a sign of said storing". However, the audible notification of Kasper logically corresponds to the present invention notification message, whereas the present invention does not incorporate a logical counterpart for the flag of Kasper.

Kasper does not teach storing a notification message. Moreover, Kasper does not concern terminal operation in any way, and specifically, Kasper does not teach storing anything in a terminal. Thus, Kasper cannot teach "erasing from the memory of the terminal said notification message in response to a specific procedure relating to said contacting" as specified in claim 1. Kasper teaches only clearing a flag in a database associated with the DCS which resides in the network (Figure 1; col 3, lines 49-50), the flag indicating that a notification of voice messages needs to be sent to the user.

Kaisto is also silent about erasing the notification message.

7

The combination of Kasper and Kaisto would not lead to the present invention since neither of them gives a hint for erasing a notification message in a terminal, which is one of the main ideas of the present invention. Instead, the combination of Kasper and Kaisto would lead to a result wherein, instead of an audible notification, a notification message to be stored in a terminal would be sent to a user when the user originates a call or answers an incoming call if a flag is set in a feature database in a network element. And the flag in the network element would be cleared when the voice messages are retrieved or when the user originates a call. However, the notification messages stored in the terminal would still need to be manually erased by the user.

Thus, the aim of Kasper and Kaisto seems to be assuring that a subscriber of a cellular network receives all waiting messages, whereas one of the aims of the present invention is to alleviate the burden of manually erasing notification messages by automatically erasing unnecessary notification messages. Kasper and Kaisto do not even hint that automatically erasing a notification message in a terminal would be necessary as is presently claimed.

Thus the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-16 under 35 USC 103 on Kasper and Kaisto should be withdrawn.
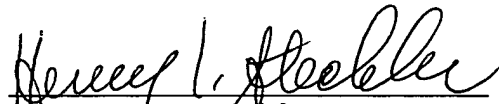
Similarly, Narusawa fails to disclose the erased message concept. Thus combining it with Kasper and Kaisto does not result in the present invention. Hence the rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 103 on this combination of references should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly

8

novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry I. Steckler
Henry I. Steckler
Reg. No. 24,139

Nov 19, 2003
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 11/19/03   Signature: _Carolina Rodriguez_
                                   Person Making Deposit